

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 11-16 are pending in the application, with 1 and 12 being the independent claims. Misnumbered claims 4 (second occurrence) and 6-10 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 11-16 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant(s) believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael V. Messinger
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,575

Date: 12/3/03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600